SUPER AA
TM
AA4
Something is wrong with my time tunnel, Biff. And stepping into it now could be dangerous!
BATMAN
QUEEN RIHU
GREEN LANTERN

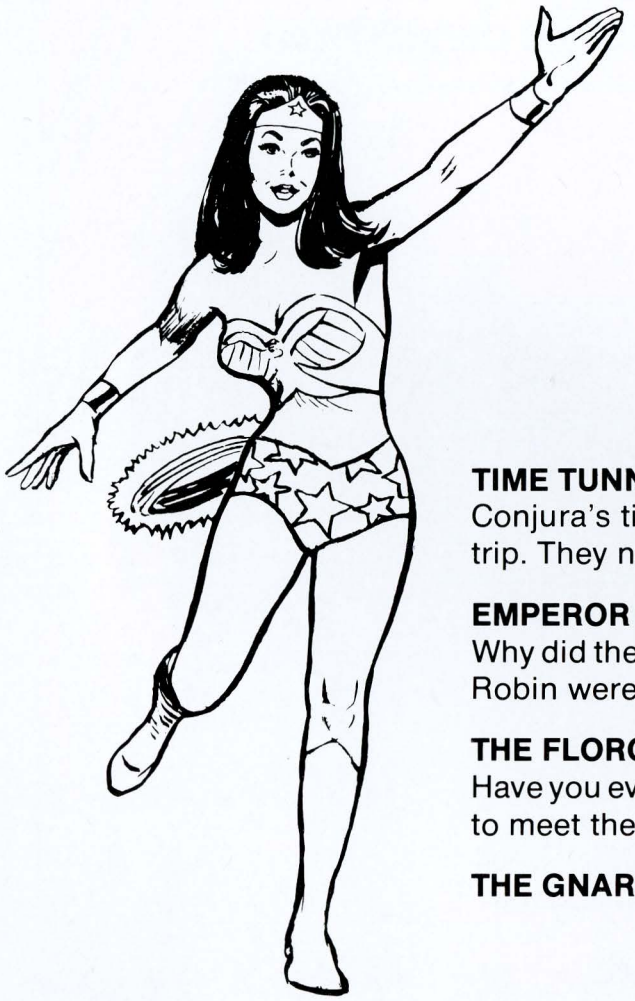
SUPER AA™

A Motivational Reading Kit

by Kathleen Thompson

CONSULTANT:

Dr. Mario Fantini
Dean and Professor
School of Education
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, Massachusetts



CONTENTS

TIME TUNNEL TROUBLE **1**
Conjura's time tunnel took Conjura and Biff on an unexpected trip. They needed more than a road map to get back again!

EMPEROR PENGUIN **16**
Why did the Penguin kidnap the queen of Swawak? Batman and Robin were left hanging in the air.

THE FLORONIC WOMAN **26**
Have you ever heard of anyone who had a green thumb? Prepare to meet the woman who developed a green body!

THE GNARTH RETURNS ..... **Inside Back Cover**

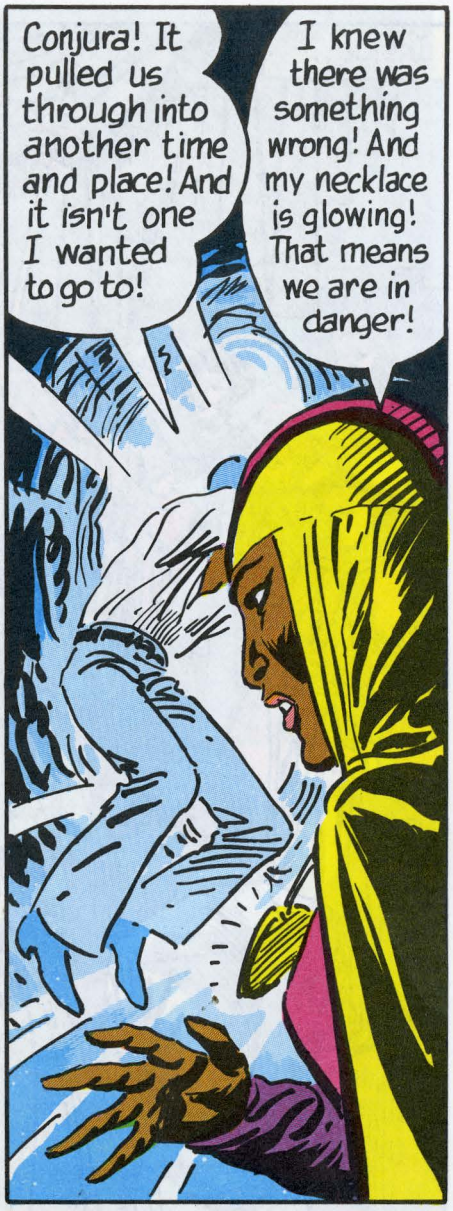
SUPER AA4, published by WARNER EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, INC., 44 East 50th Street, New York, New York 10022—all rights reserved throughout the world. Authorized edition. Copyright © 1978 Warner Educational Services, Inc. TMs of and all characters copyright ©DC COMICS INC.,1978. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Printed in the United States of America.

WARNER EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

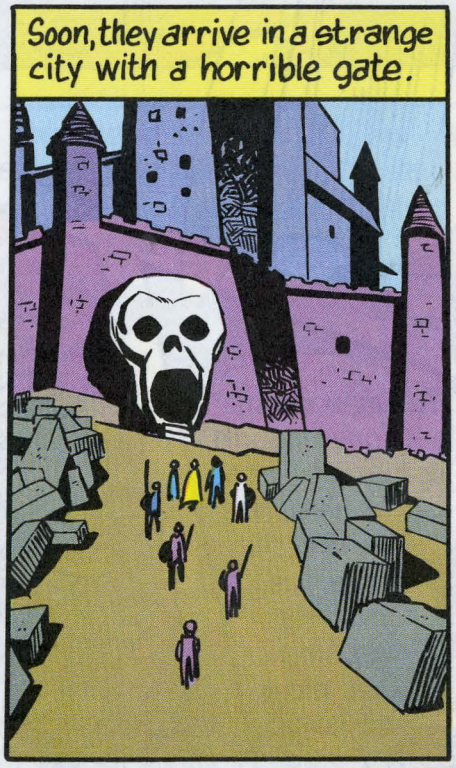
Special acknowledgment to:
Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art, Inc.

A Warner Communications Company

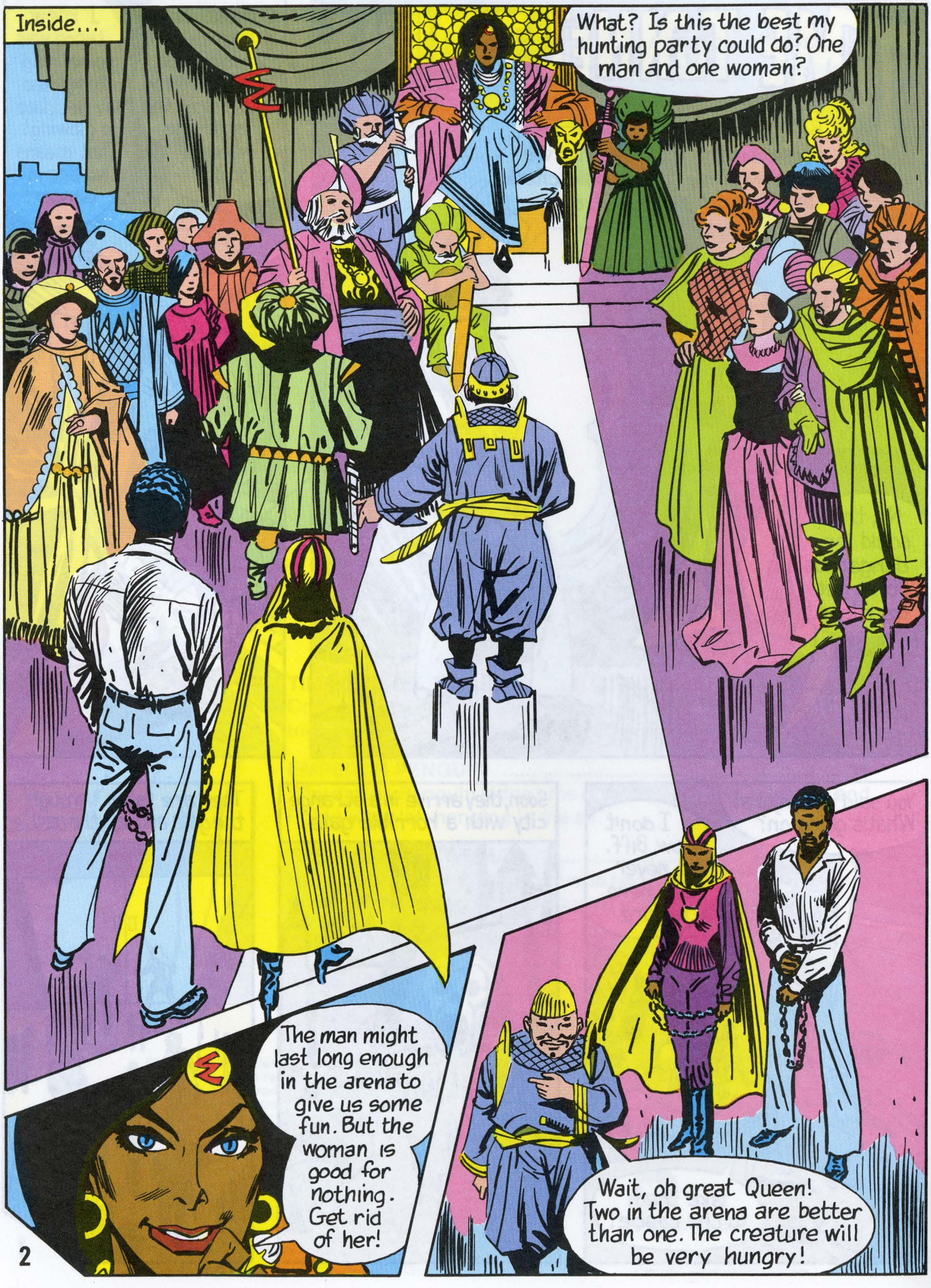
TIME TUNNEL TROUBLE
Biff, I think something is wrong with my time tunnel.
Maybe we should check it out.
No, that could be dangerous. Don't get too close!


Conjura! It pulled us through into another time and place! And it isn't one I wanted to go to!
I knew there was something wrong! And my necklace is glowing! That means we are in danger!

You said it, Conjura! What's going on?
I don't know, Biff. I've never been here before.
Take them to the castle!


Soon, they arrive in a strange city with a horrible gate.

They are taken through the gate and into the castle.


Inside...
What? Is this the best my hunting party could do? One man and one woman?
The man might last long enough in the arena to give us some fun. But the woman is good for nothing. Get rid of her!
Wait, oh great Queen! Two in the arena are better than one. The creature will be very hungry!

He is right! This woman looks as though she could put up a good fight. That should be good for a laugh, at least.

As a good queen, I shall do what my people want. Lock them both up!

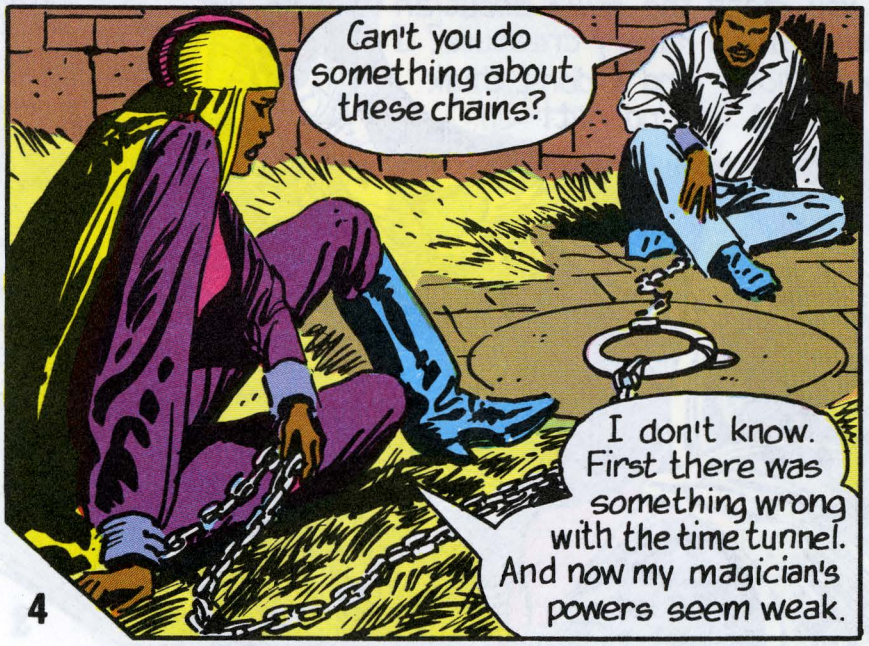
Later...
What were they talking about, Conjura?

Do you mean the stuff about an arena and a hungry creature? I don't know. And I don't think I want to find out!

I once read a book about people being thrown in arenas and fed to the lions.
Yuck! The books some people will read! What were you doing reading a book like that?

I had to, it was my history book!
People really used to do that! And I think we have ended up in one of the times in history when they did.

That queen and her people are looking forward to feeding time at the area.


Can't you do something about these chains?
I don't know. First there was something wrong with the time tunnel. And now my magician's powers seem weak.

But I should still be able to manage a few chains.

Conjura speaks her magic words... backwards.
Sniahc tlem!
And the chains melt!
SSSS
All right! That takes care of part of the problem.
Now can you get the guard in here to unlock the door?
Not with magic, I can't. I'm afraid melting the chains used up my magic--at least for now.
But we can trick the guard. We'll just put on an act good enough to fool him into coming in here.
Soon...
Guard! Guard! Hurry, there is something wrong with the woman!
If she dies, you'll be in big trouble!

What's going on in here? Uh--

Wake up! Wake up! The queen will have my head for this!

ARRGHH!

Don't hurt him!

Conjura takes the guard's keys and unlocks the rest of the chains.

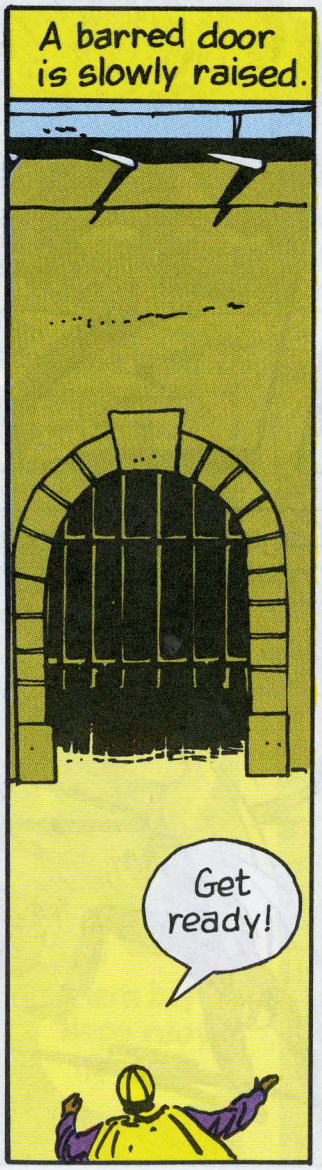
I've got his sword.
I chained him to the floor. Now let's get out of here.
My necklace is still glowing, Biff. We are not out of danger yet.

Quickly, Conjura and Biff run through the halls of the castle. Then...
Soldiers! Our way is blocked!
Let's try this way. If we can't go down, let's try up!
But again their way is blocked.
Uh, uh. Not this way either.
There they go!
Thank goodness their aim is terrible!
They run on, and soon find themselves in a tunnel. At the end is a door.
Let's hope it's unlocked.
It is!
Hurry, the soldiers are coming.
But as they step through the door, they are met by a surprise.
Oh!

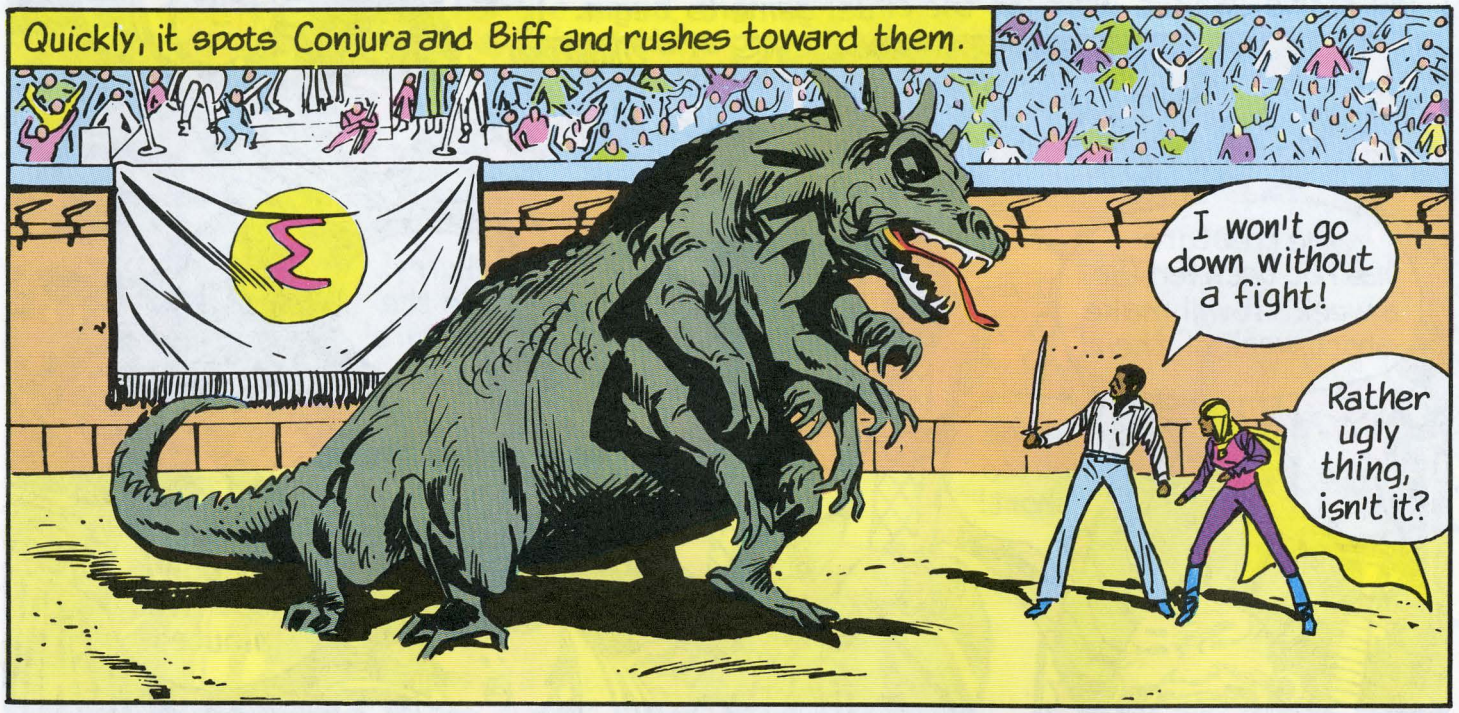
For the door has led them into the arena. And it is quickly shut and locked behind them.
SLAM
Welcome! We have been waiting for you!
It was all a trick! We were supposed to escape. It was all a part of their plan. We were herded to the door and out into this arena!
Now for the fun! Free the Gnarth!

The crowd cannot wait for the cruel game to begin.
The creature has not been fed for a week. It will make short work of them!
I hope not too short!
Hurry! Free the creature!
I'll bet they don't last five minutes.

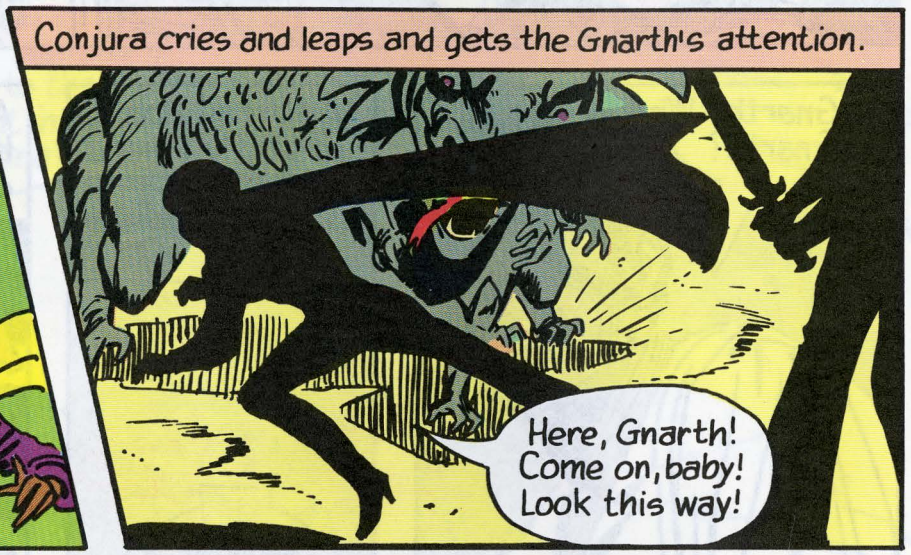
A Gnarth? What's a Gnarth?
I think we are about to find out!

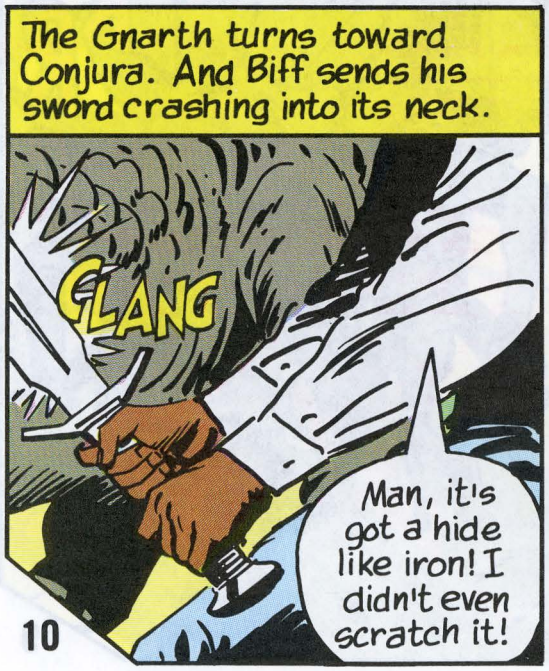

A barred door is slowly raised.
Get ready!

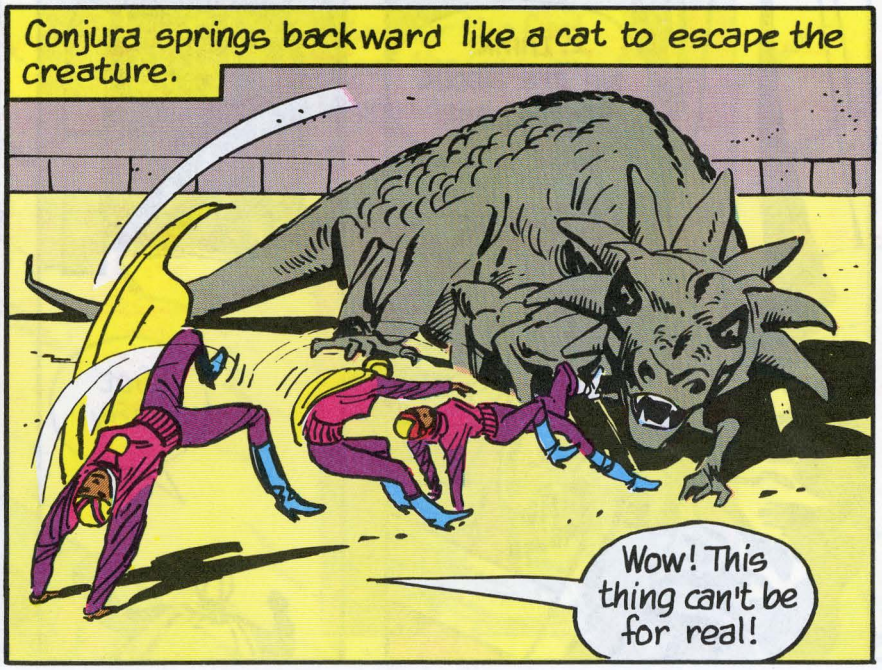
A roar fills the arena. And, from the open doorway, a terrible creature leaps forth.
AROOAARRR


Quickly, it spots Conjura and Biff and rushes toward them.
I won't go down without a fight!
Rather ugly thing, isn't it?

I do not FEEL like lunch, even if he thinks I LOOK like it! So, as I get its attention, you get IT.


Conjura cries and leaps and gets the Gnarth's attention.
Here, Gnarth! Come on, baby! Look this way!


The Gnarth turns toward Conjura. And Biff sends his sword crashing into its neck.
GLANG
Man, it's got a hide like iron! I didn't even scratch it!

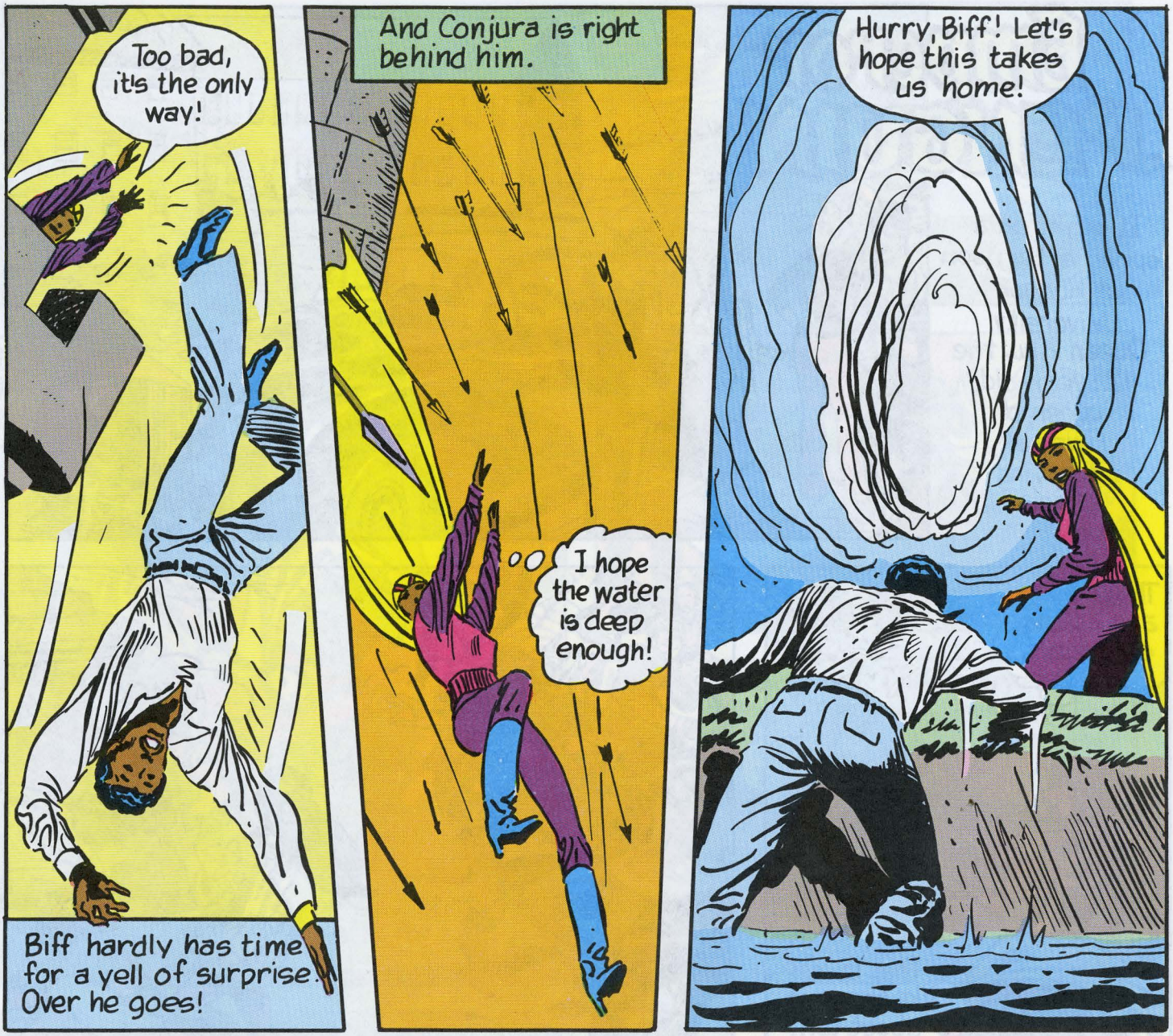

Conjura springs backward like a cat to escape the creature.
Wow! This thing can't be for real!

The crowd is having a wonderful time watching the life and death struggle.
I knew they would put up a good fight!
Maybe some of my magic power is back. It had better be, or we'll be done for!
What are you going to do? It's getting ready to rush us again!
It's not much of a chance, but we'll have to take it. This is what we'll do...
Conjura quickly explains her plan. Then, once again, she steps in front of the Gnarth.
Here boy! Nepo ruoy htuom!
The magic works! And, as the creature leaps for Conjura...
Let him have it, Biff!

Biff pushes the sword into the creature's open mouth.
With its mouth held open, the Gnarth cannot bite. It cannot even see where it is going.
KRAAWWRR
It worked.
The creature tries to shake the sword loose. But it is stuck tight.
Run!
Conjura and Biff race for the arena wall.
Now for part two of my plan.

Biff drops to one knee in front of the box where the queen is sitting.
Conjura jumps onto his back...
...and up into the queen's box.
And once again, she calls upon her magic powers.
Enoyreve, llaf peelsa!
One moment, the crowd is staring in wonder at the Gnarth in the arena. The next moment, they are all fast asleep.
Let's get out of here. I don't know how long they will stay asleep.

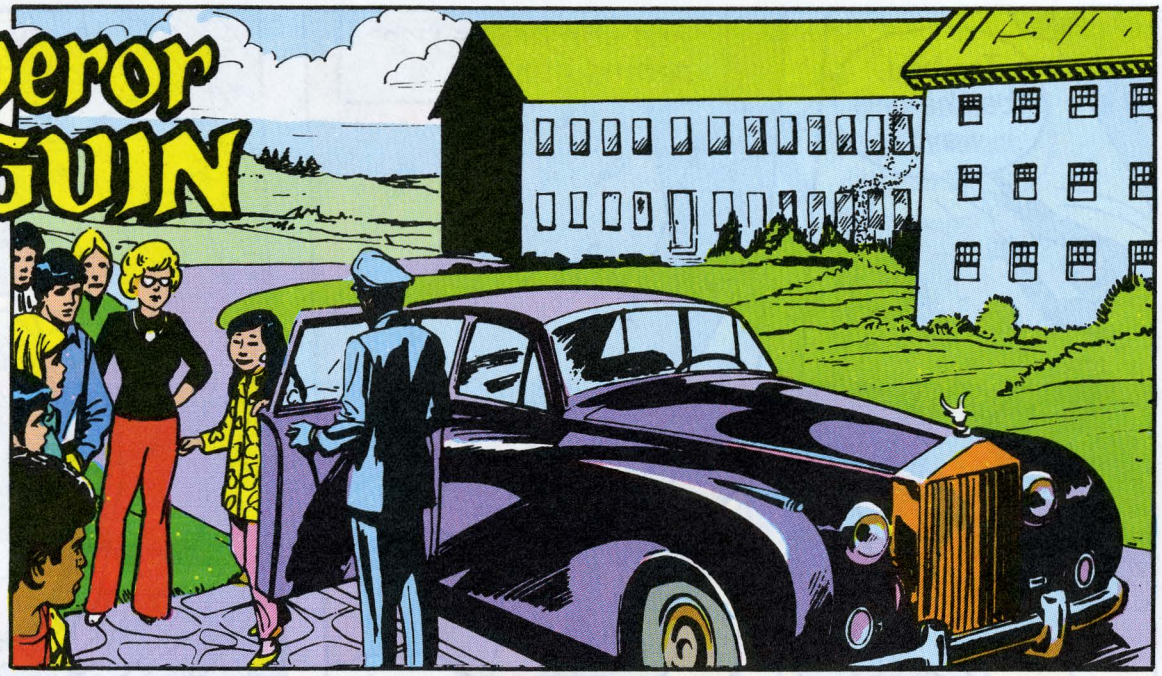
The queen is the first to wake. Her screams awake the others.
Bring them back!
I want those two at any cost!
Conjura and Biff race through the castle, searching for a way out.
That last turn was a mistake. There is no way down from here!
Biff, look!
The time tunnel! Across the water!
We must get to it!
But how? There is no way down.
And we'll never get past THEM!
No, we won't. But there IS a way out.
Can you swim?
You don't mean for us to jump! It's much too far down!


Too bad, it's the only way!
Biff hardly has time for a yell of surprise. Over he goes!
And Conjura is right behind him.
I hope the water is deep enough!
Hurry, Biff! Let's hope this takes us home!

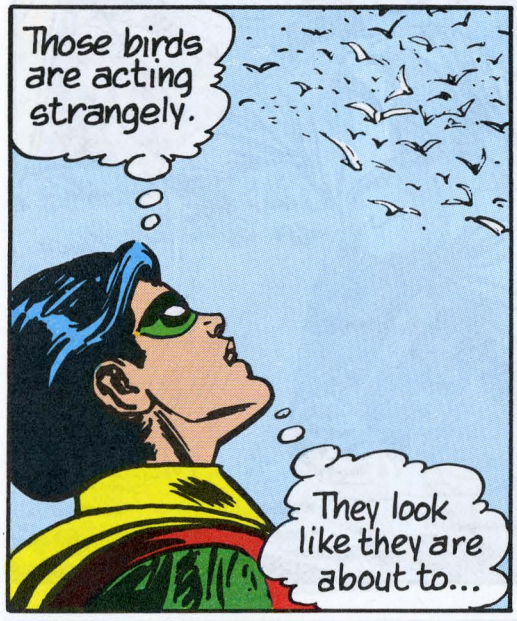
Man, it's good to be back.

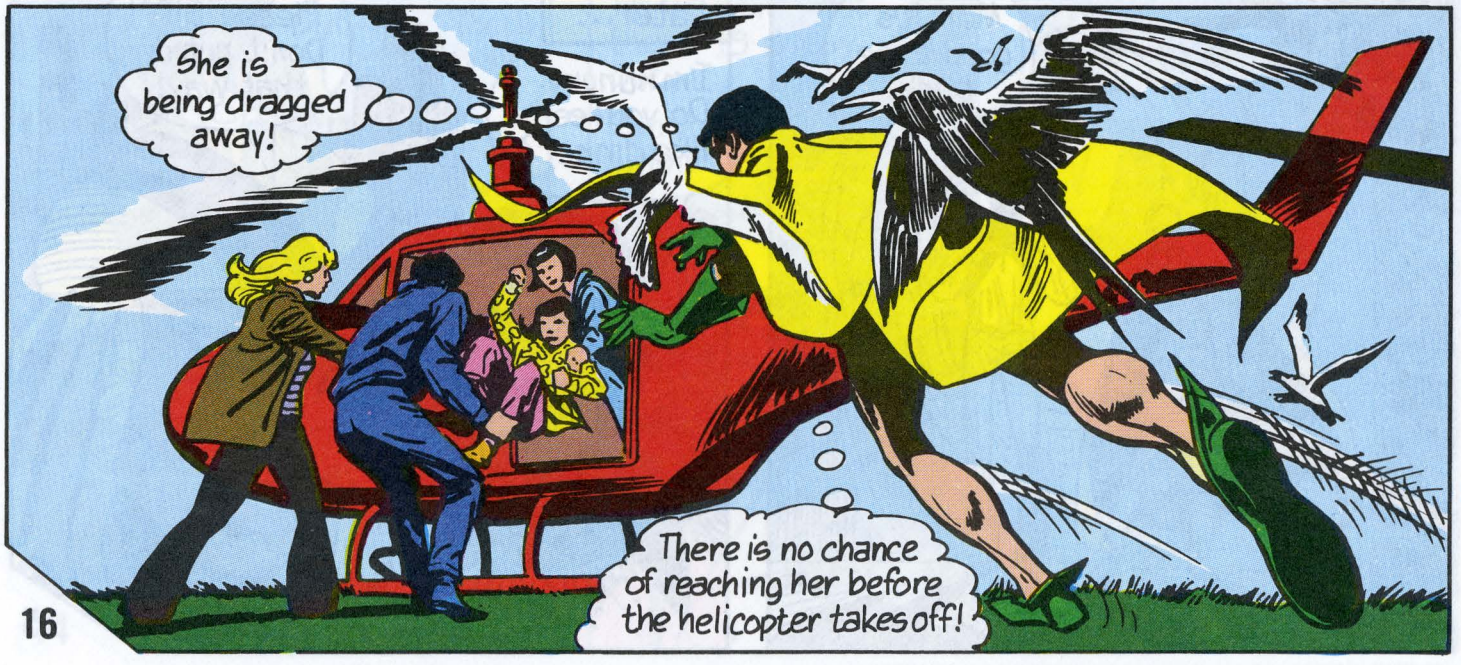
Later...
I'm hungry. Do you feel like dinner?
Please, Biff! Don't put it that way!
THE END

Emperor PENGUIN



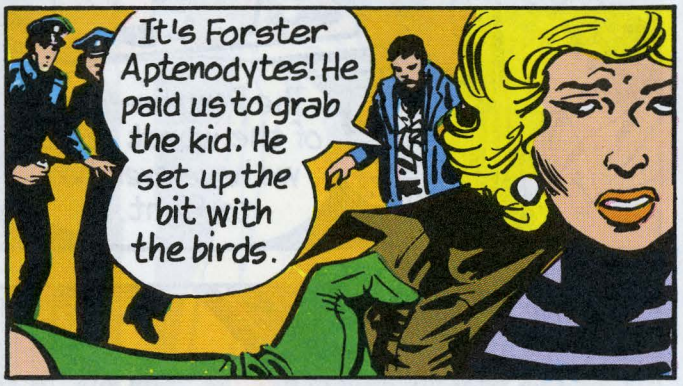
It begins on a spring afternoon at Hudson University. Queen Rihu, the 12-year-old queen of Swawak, is paying a visit.





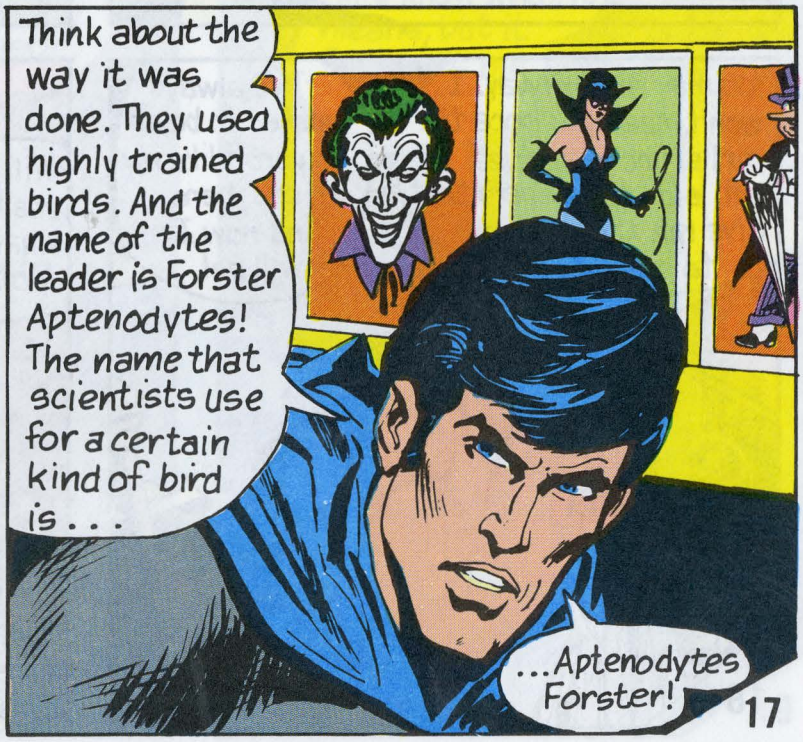
CHUP. CHUP. CHUP!
But at least I can nail these two!

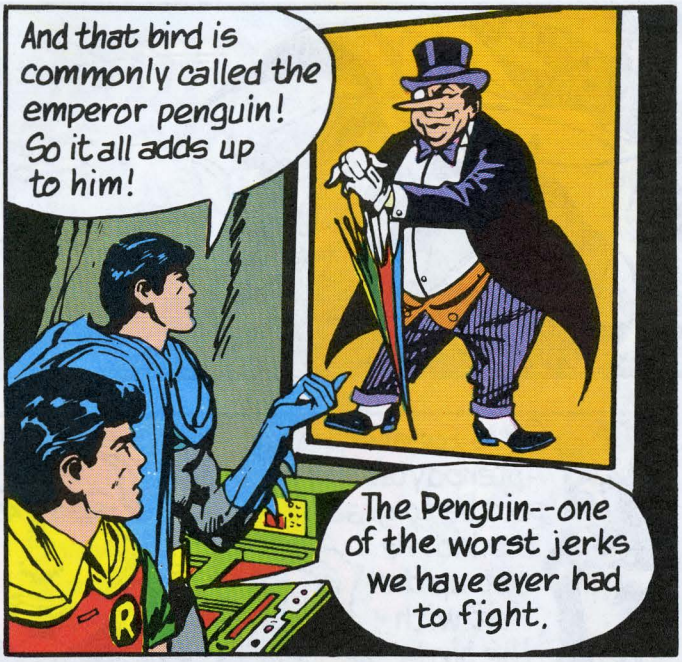
Instead of taking her apart, I'll be more gentle.
Talk, and I may put in a good word for you with the police! Who's your leader?
I'll tell you! Why not?
Why should I stick out my neck for him?

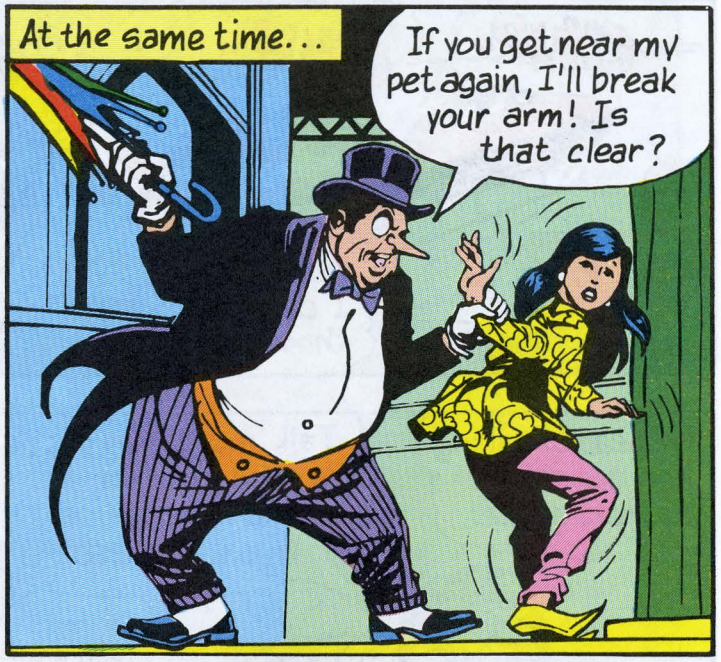

It's Forster Aptenodytes! He paid us to grab the kid. He set up the bit with the birds.

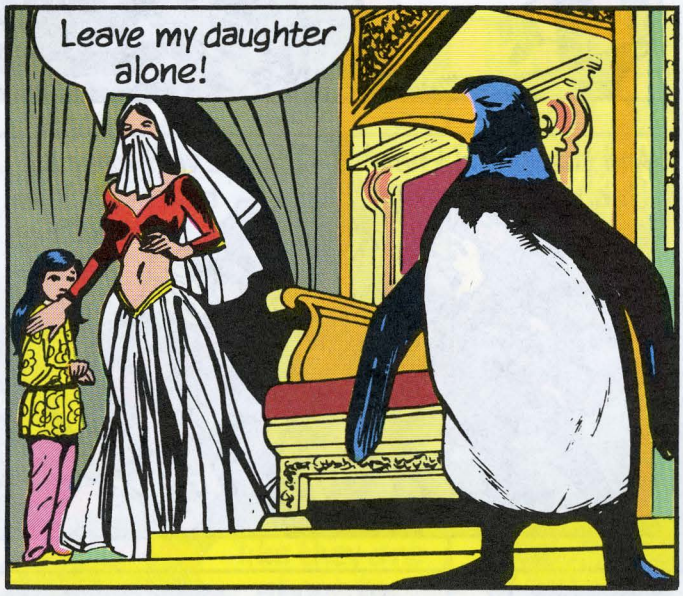
And that's all I know! Unhh!
I find it very easy to believe you. Take them. They are all yours!

Robin goes directly to a huge cave beneath a large house. There he tells the strange story to his friend, Batman.
That's the story. Does it make any sense to you?
Quite a bit!


Think about the way it was done. They used highly trained birds. And the name of the leader is Forster Aptenodytes! The name that scientists use for a certain kind of bird is . . .
. . . Aptenodytes Forster!


And that bird is commonly called the emperor penguin! So it all adds up to him!
The Penguin--one of the worst jerks we have ever had to fight.


At the same time...
If you get near my pet again, I'll break your arm! Is that clear?

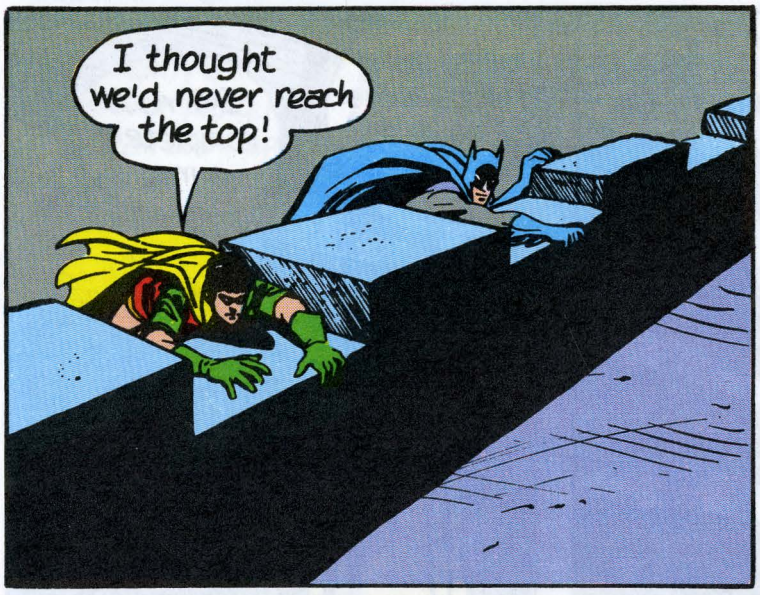

Leave my daughter alone!

She is only a child.
Sure, sure! I'll take orders from you! That will be the day. HA!
One more word out of you and I'll send you to the eagle's nest!

You may die anyway. I won't need you once the girl's uncle arrives. He will sign the papers that give me the power to rule!
I've always wanted to be an emperor, like my friend here. And now I will be!

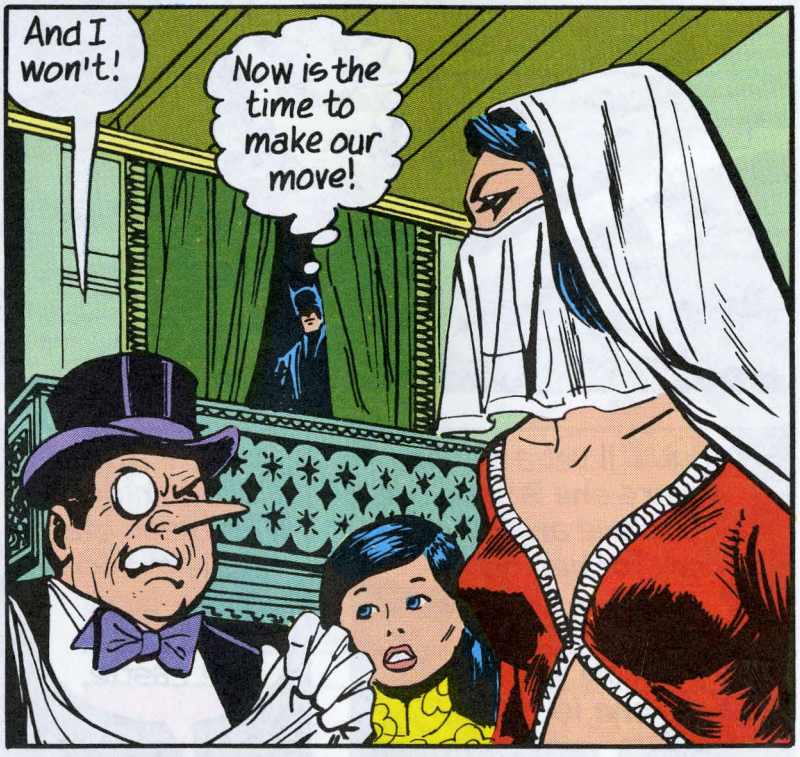
I'm afraid he will, if he isn't stopped. But do not worry.
Will he really do what he says, Mother?
I shall protect you!

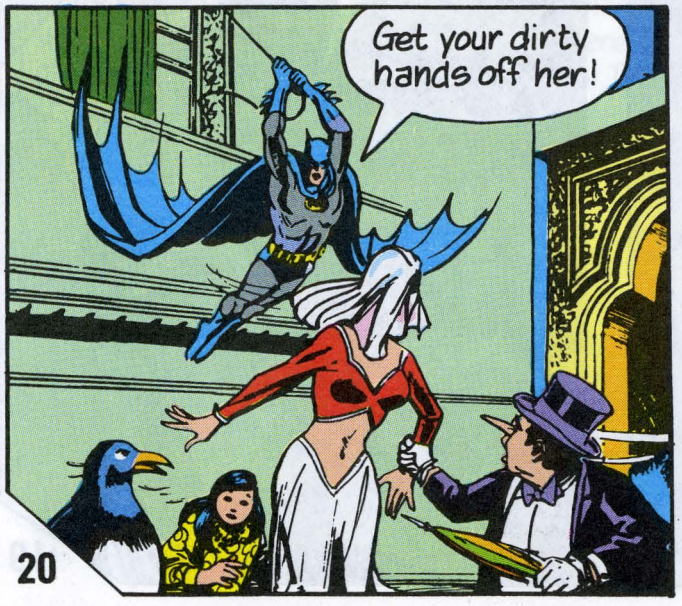
Two mornings later, the two caped detectives arrive at the castle by the sea.
Ready for a hard climb, Robin? The young queen is being held inside. So, we don't dare storm the front of her castle.
So we enter from the back--up the side of that cliff!
You're sure the queen is being held in her own castle?
I'm not completely sure.
But I'll bet a million dollars she is! It's the last place anyone would look for her. So, knowing the Penguin, that's probably where she is.
And it's a good place to hide out. With these steep walls of rock, only a bird could reach the castle.
Robin, look! An eagle's nest with three ropes hanging next to it. I don't know what it means, but it frightens me a bit.

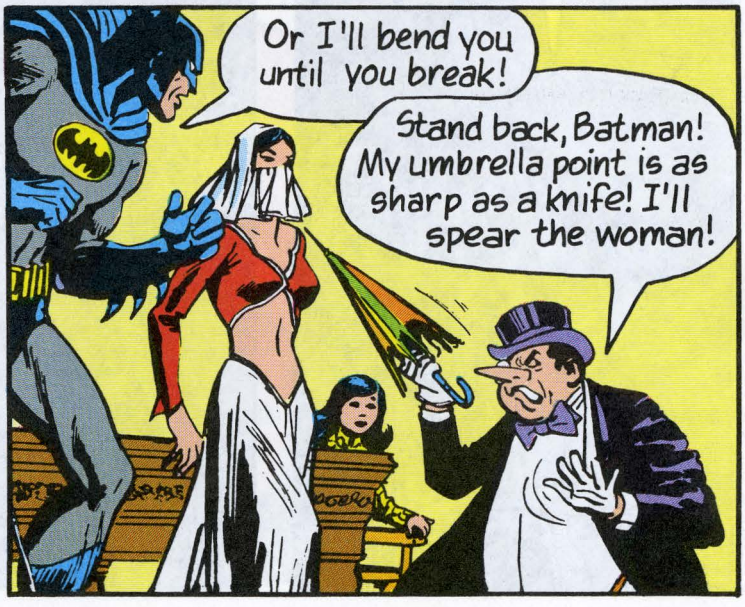

I thought we'd never reach the top!

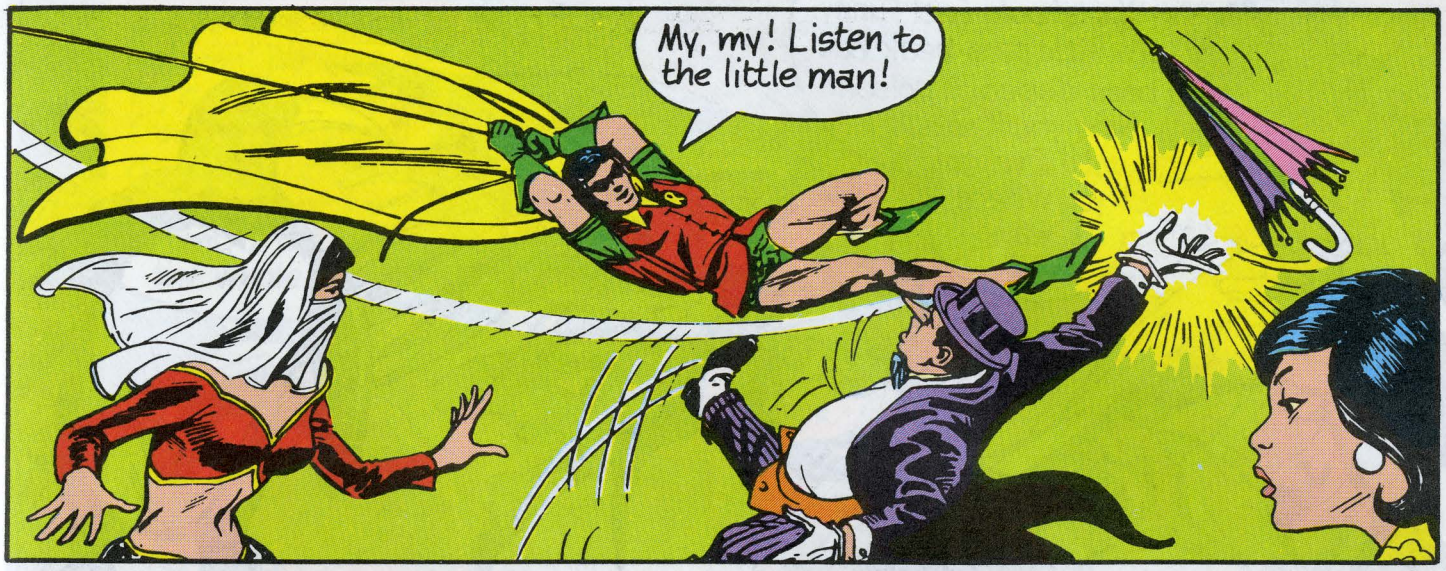
Come on! The Penguin must be inside. Let's nail him!

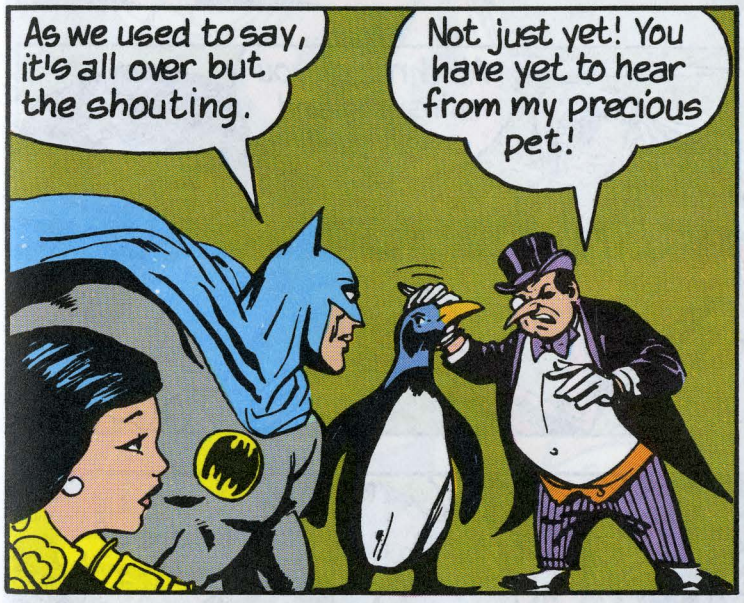
Minutes later...
Let me give my daughter something to eat.
You'll give her nothing unless I let you.

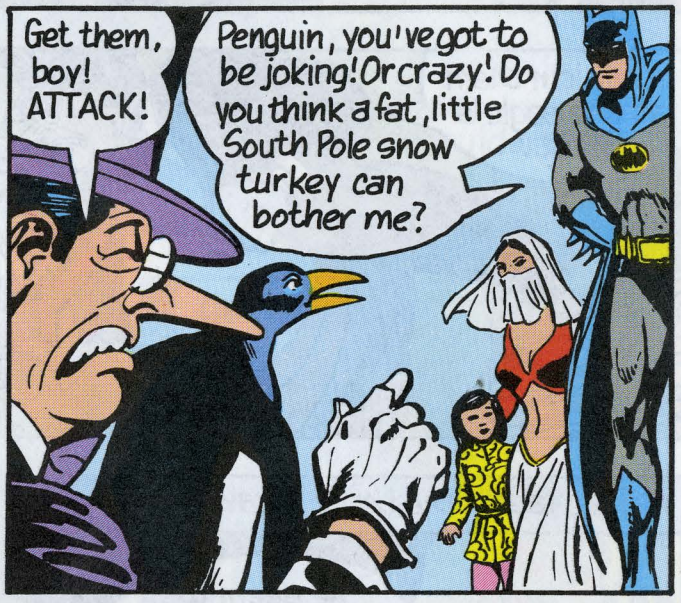

And I won't!
Now is the time to make our move!

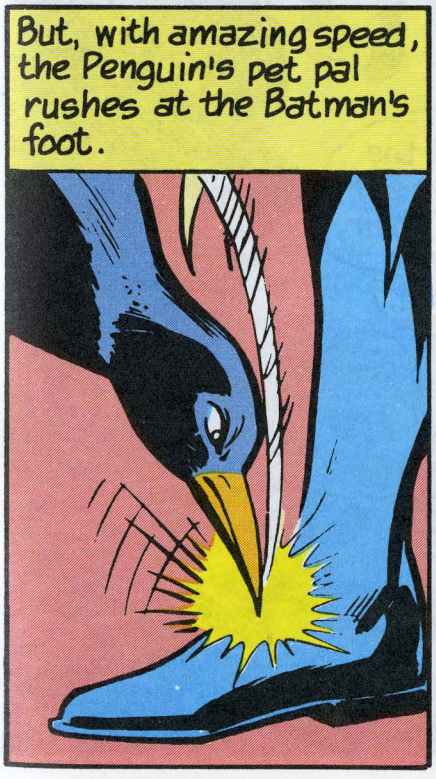

Get your dirty hands off her!


Or I'll bend you until you break!
Stand back, Batman! My umbrella point is as sharp as a knife! I'll spear the woman!


My, my! Listen to the little man!


As we used to say, it's all over but the shouting.
Not just yet! You have yet to hear from my precious pet!

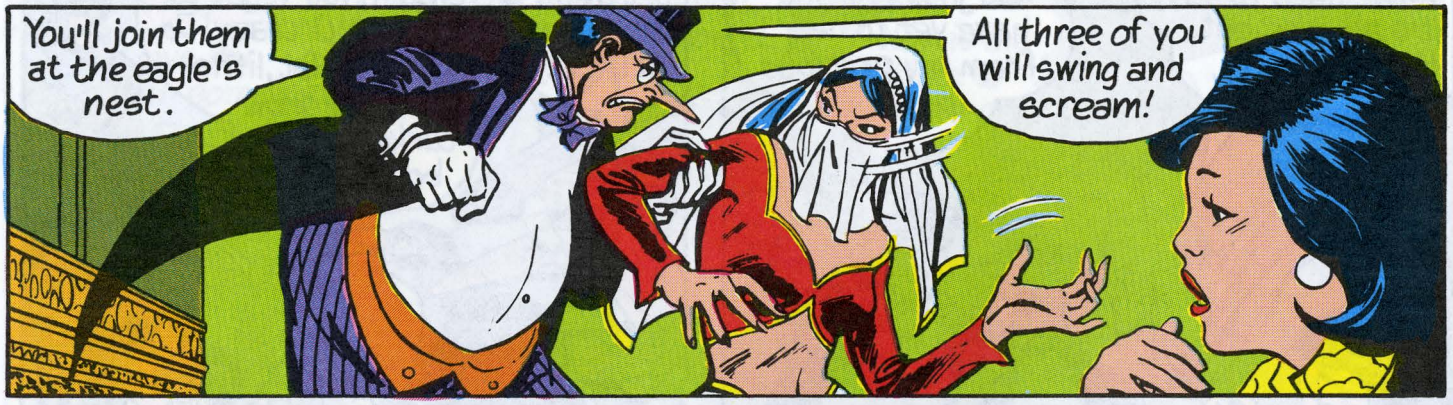

Get them, boy! ATTACK!
Penguin, you've got to be joking! Or crazy! Do you think a fat, little South Pole snow turkey can bother me?

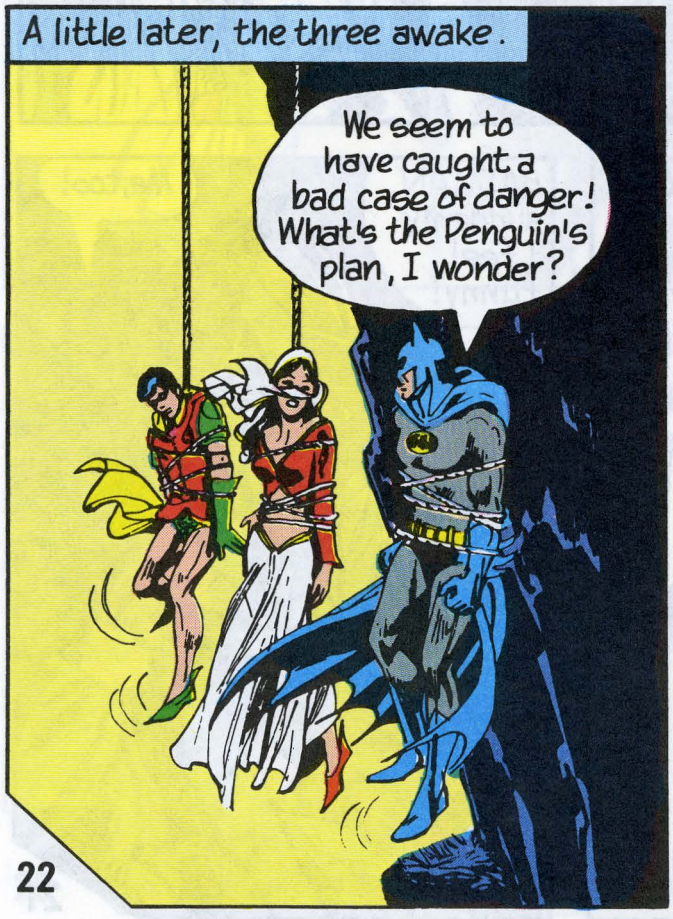

But, with amazing speed, the Penguin's pet pal rushes at the Batman's foot.

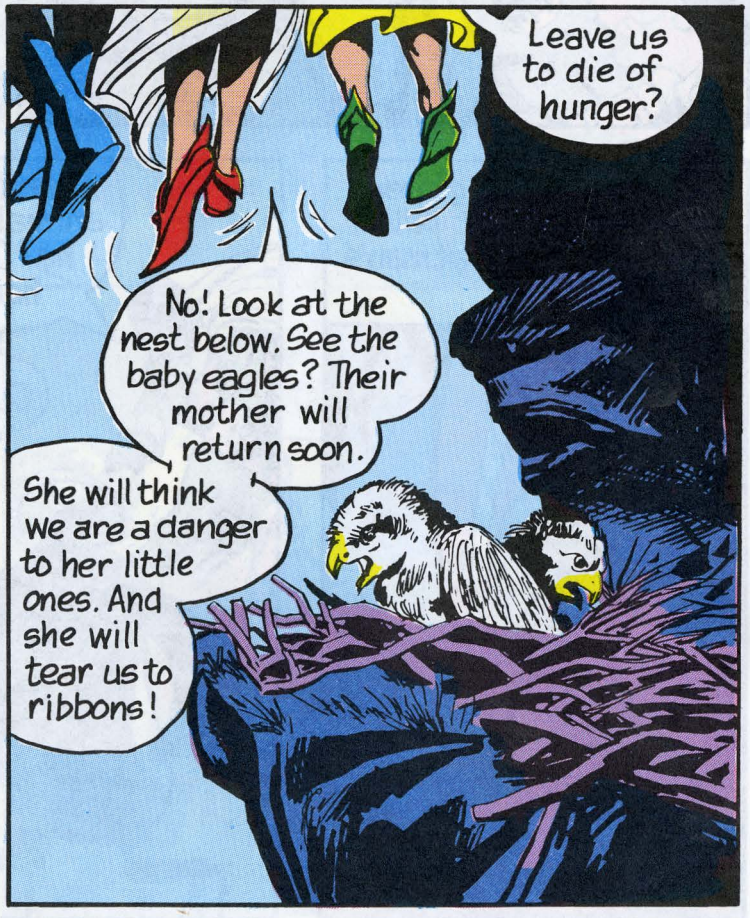
Mean little animal, isn't he? Come here!
Ouch!

BATMAN, suddenly I feel funny!
Me, too!

You should feel funny. My little pal's beak has been dipped in poison! Now you'll sleep, until I've got you where I want you.

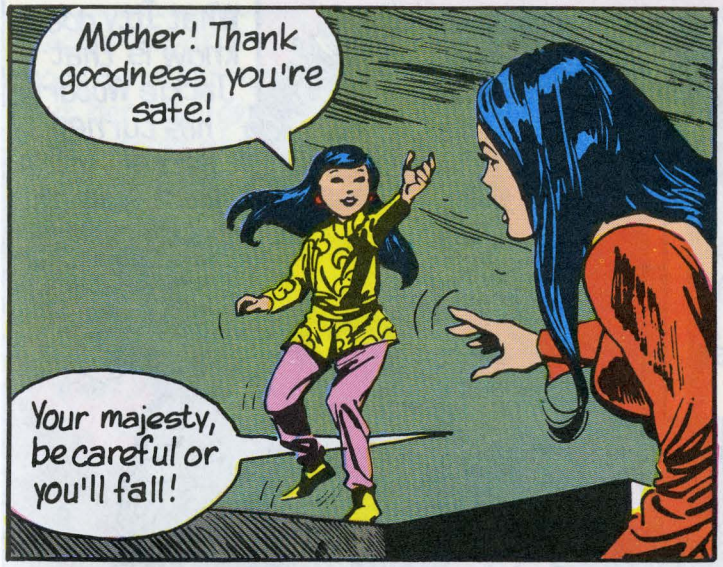

You'll join them at the eagle's nest.
All three of you will swing and scream!

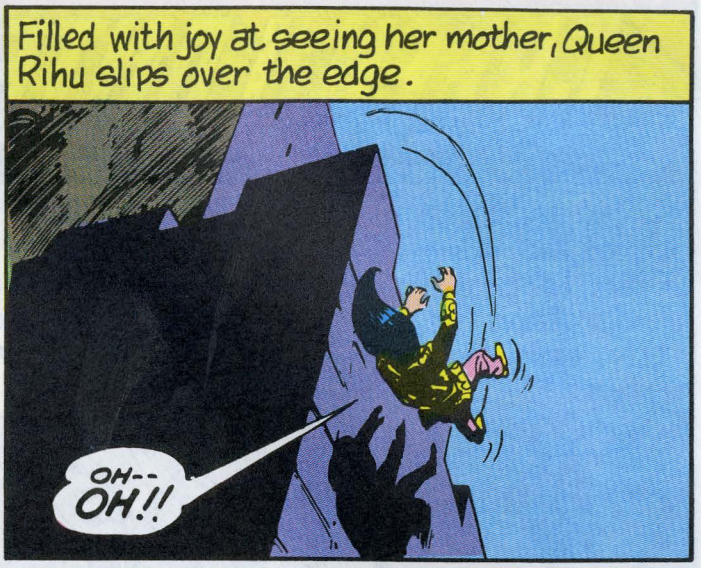

A little later, the three awake.
We seem to have caught a bad case of danger! What's the Penguin's plan, I wonder?


Leave us to die of hunger?
No! Look at the nest below. See the baby eagles? Their mother will return soon.
She will think we are a danger to her little ones. And she will tear us to ribbons!

But we must escape, Batman! We must get my daughter away from the Penguin. If we don't, the Penguin will get the power he needs to control the queen and the whole country!
Right now we have to save the three of us! Mama eagle is on the scene, and giving us a very dirty look.
Quick, Robin! Swing your feet up to my shoulders!
Made it! Now what?
Jump up to the rock above.
Use that sharp edge to cut through your ropes. While you're doing that, I'll keep Mama busy!
So far, so good. Now to cut the ropes.
Get behind me. I'll protect you!
No! I am not helpless! Besides, I can be useful! The two of us will divide the bird's attention. That will make our chances twice as good.

I'll shoot through their ropes!
YEOWWWCH!
AUK! I'll get you for that!
You will not step near me. And you will not harm my mother. If you do, I will leap from the wall to the rocks below.
Without me around, it will do no good to get my uncle to sign anything. You need the papers from him. But you need me too! Your hope of becoming the emperor of Swawak will die with me!
And, on the rock...
At last, I'm loose!
How are you doing, Batman?
Pull us up, quickly!
Soon...
Auuk! The Batman!


Mother! Thank goodness you're safe!
Your majesty, be careful or you'll fall!

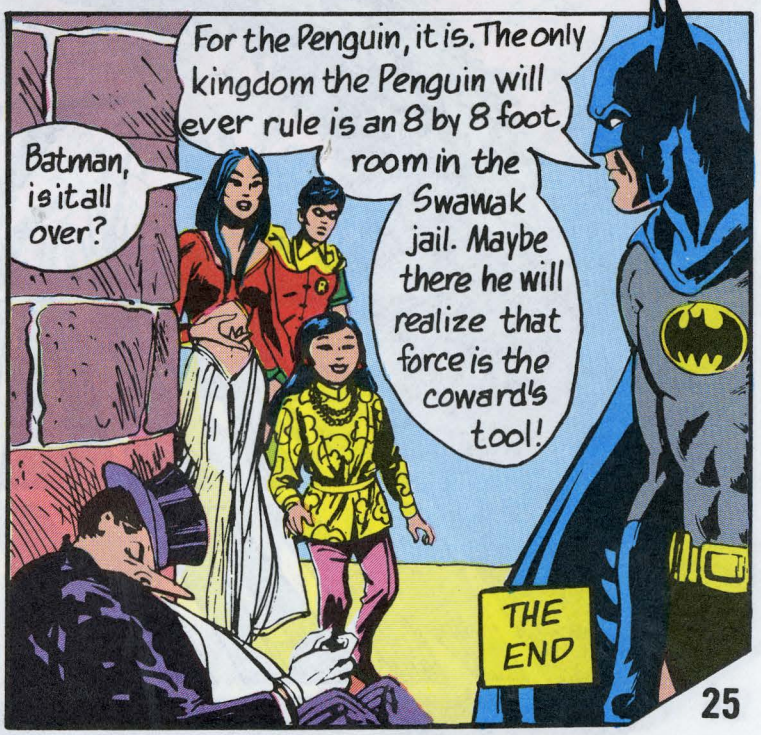

Filled with joy at seeing her mother, Queen Rihu slips over the edge.
OH-- OH!!

As she falls, her fingers find a crack between the stones.
Help! Mother, help!

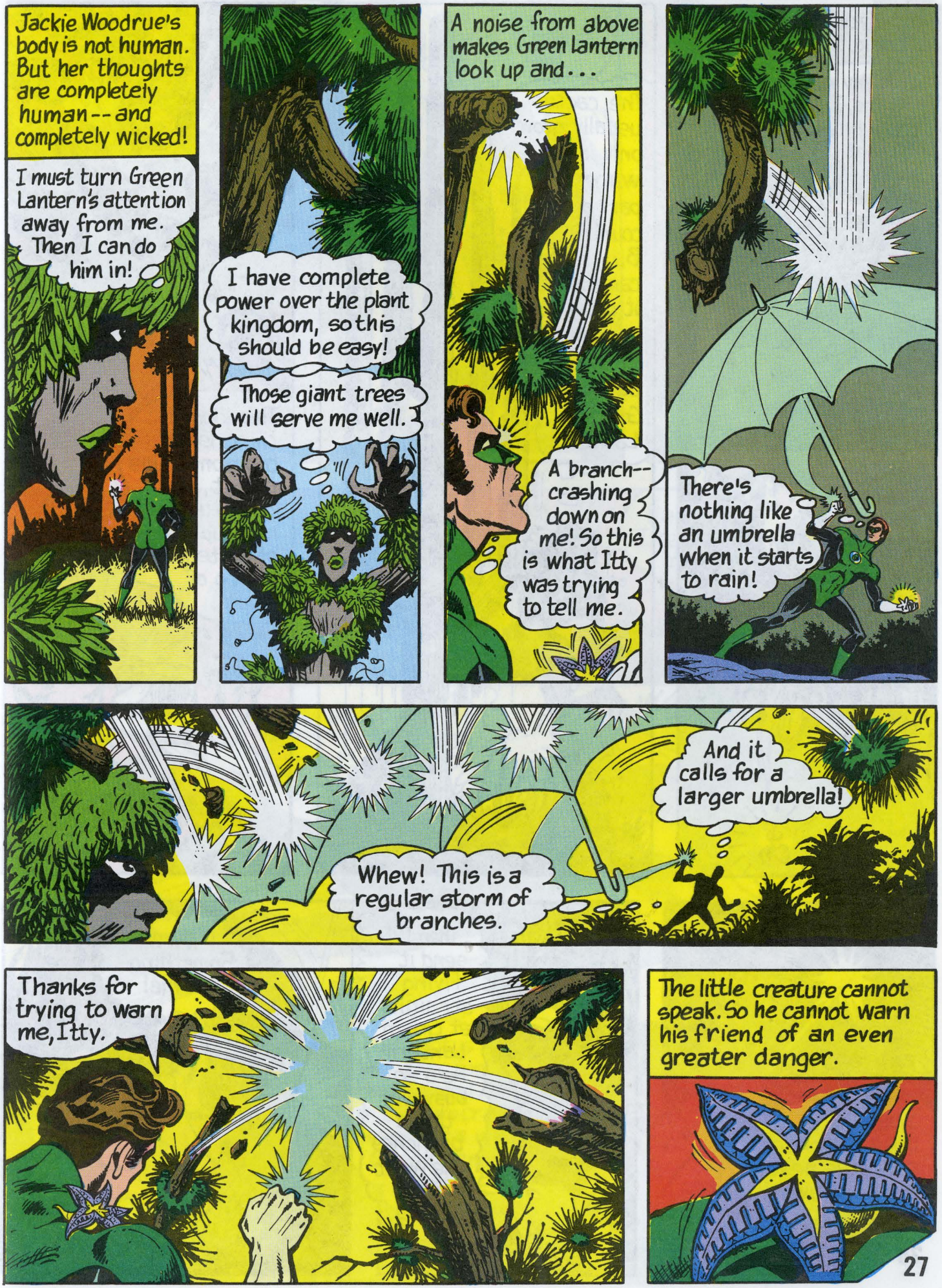
Acting as a team, Robin and the queen's Mother act quickly.

Hand touches hand, fingers fasten, two hearts flutter, and a glad cry is heard.
Got her!

I'm almost sorry for you.
You live with birds because you can't stand people.


Batman, is it all over?
For the Penguin, it is. The only kingdom the Penguin will ever rule is an 8 by 8 foot room in the Swawak jail. Maybe there he will realize that force is the coward's tool!
THE END

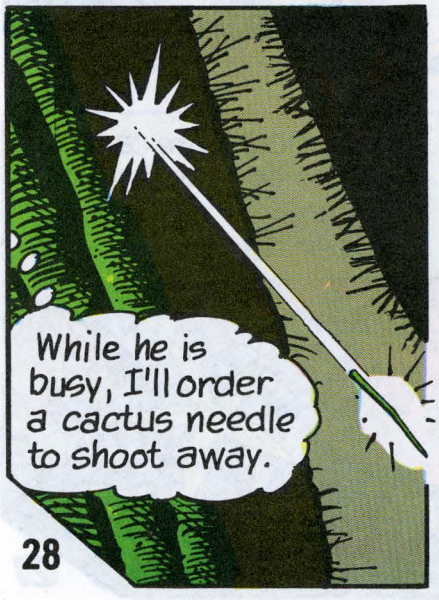
GREEN LANTERN
In the middle of the Great Pacific Northwest, Green Lantern tries to understand his friend, Itty.
The tiny space creature tries to warn him of danger. But Itty does not know exactly what the danger is!
What Itty does know is that Jackie Woodrue has turned herself into a plant woman!
THE FLORONIC WOMAN!


Jackie Woodrue's body is not human. But her thoughts are completely human--and completely wicked!
I must turn Green Lantern's attention away from me. Then I can do him in!
I have complete power over the plant kingdom, so this should be easy!
Those giant trees will serve me well.
A noise from above makes Green Lantern look up and...
A branch--crashing down on me! So this is what Itty was trying to tell me.
There's nothing like an umbrella when it starts to rain!
Whew! This is a regular storm of branches.
And it calls for a larger umbrella!
Thanks for trying to warn me, Itty.
The little creature cannot speak. So he cannot warn his friend of an even greater danger.

And Jackie Woodrue attacks!
With my new powers, I can cause any kind of plant to grow-- anywhere!

The cactus usually grows only in a warm, dry part of the country. But I can make it grow here. And I'll use it against Green Lantern!

This kind of thing isn't common on this planet, Itty. Rain is usually made up of drops of water, not parts of trees.


While he is busy, I'll order a cactus needle to shoot away.

Then I'll send it flying straight at Green Lantern! He's so busy with those branches he won't see it coming.

Owww! Something bit me!

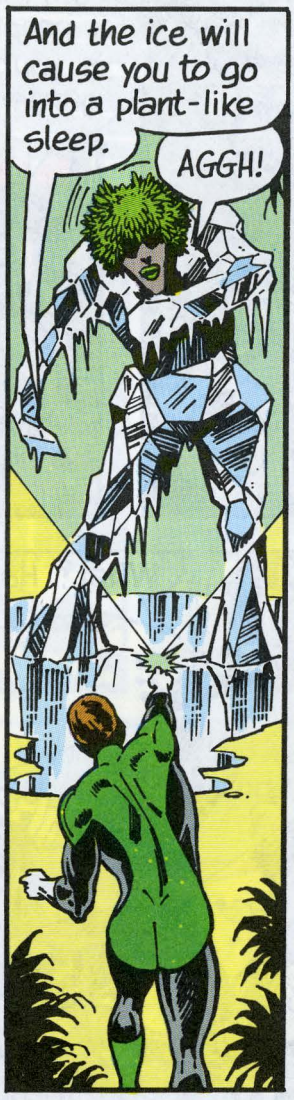
It was probably just a little bee. It couldn't have been anything important. What is important is cleaning up this mess.
Hmm. I guess I'll... That's strange. Suddenly I feel funny.
Ho ha! I can't help laughing! Ha ha ha!
Ha hee ha! I can't stop myself!
I just feel like playing! Look, Itty. I'm an airplane, a jet!
Want a ride? Zoom!
Green Lantern is being watched from nearby.
The cactus needle has done just what I had planned. It has made him crazy-- at least for a while. Soon Green Lantern will be planted-- six feet under the ground!

Watch me come in for a crash landing, Itty!
With enormous force, Green Lantern crashes into a huge tree.
He is knocked out, and falls to the ground.
He awakes, a short time later. The words of Jackie Woodrue ring in his ears.
Don't try to move!
You're stuck in the roots of that tree. And you'll never get free!
Don't count on your ring to save you!
Because I've taken it!
What? No one can take that ring from my finger! I've ordered it to stay on my hand if anyone tries to take it!
No human can take it off your hand. But I am not human. I am a plant woman. A floronic woman.

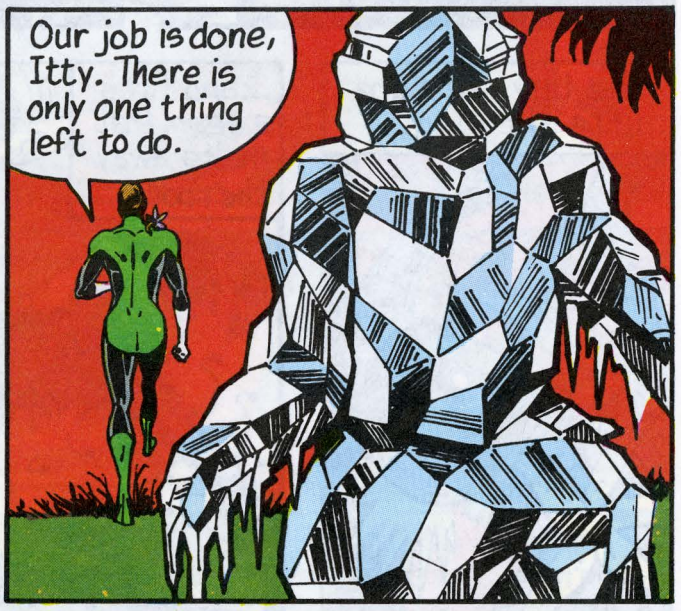
I suppose you have some crazy plan to rule the world?
My plan is to turn the world into an enormous garden! I'll hang your ring here to tease you.
I don't suppose there will be any room for people in your garden?
People? Never! I hate them! It's time for plants to rule the earth. And I'll be their queen!
No one notices Itty as he crawls into the ring.
The tiny creature lifts the ring...
...and fires a beam that melts away the roots.
What? How did you do that?
That's MY secret, Woodrue!
Now, I'll take back my ring.

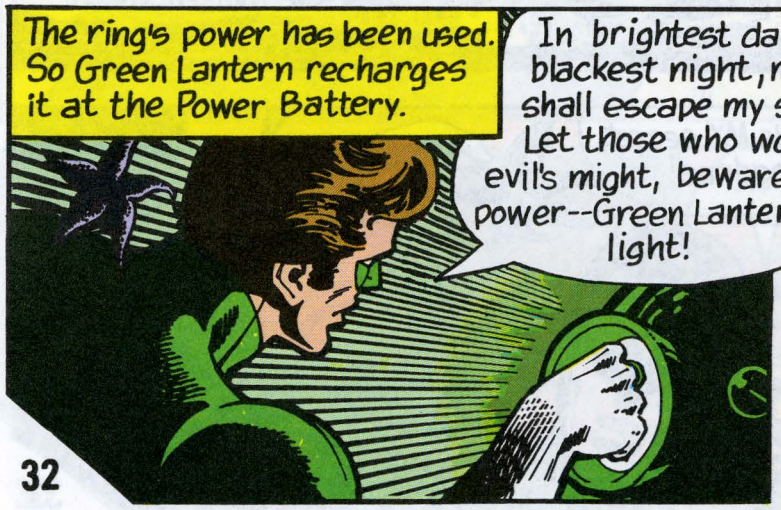
And now, you floronic woman, I'll give you a taste of my green power!
What are you doing?

I'm turning the water that is part of the ground beneath you... into ICE!


And the ice will cause you to go into a plant-like sleep.
AGGH!

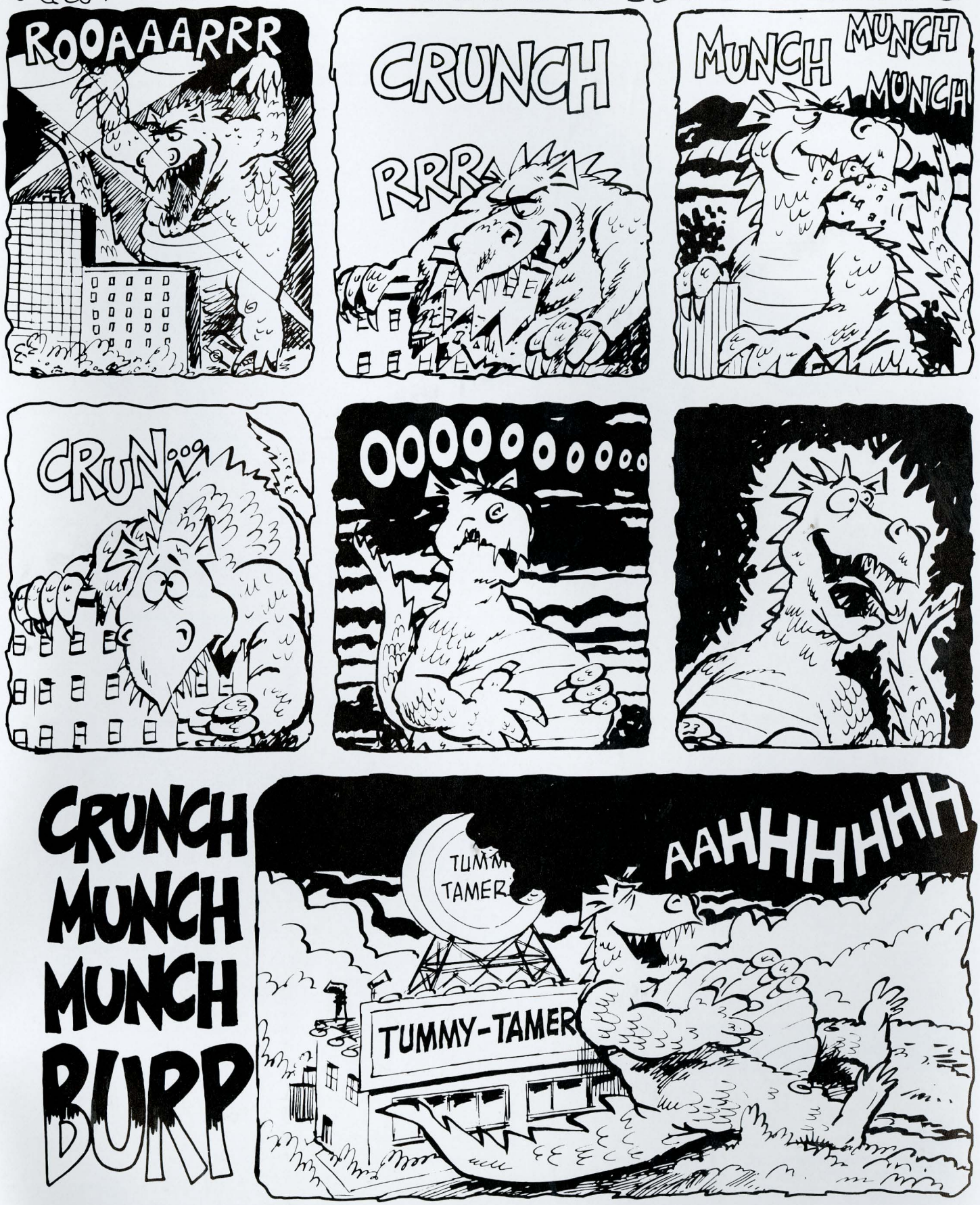
And you'll stay that way until I figure what to do with you.


Our job is done, Itty. There is only one thing left to do.

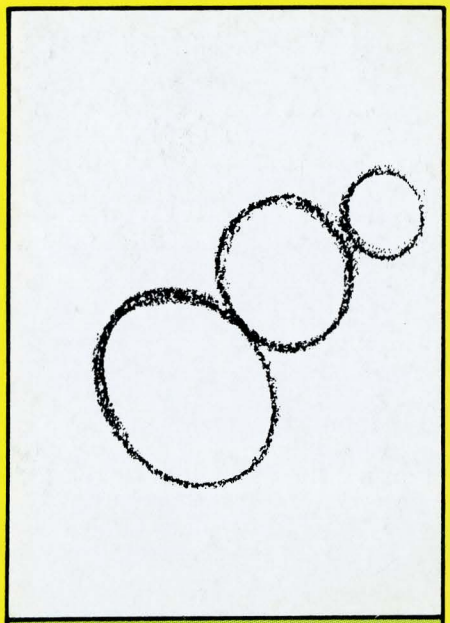

The ring's power has been used. So Green Lantern recharges it at the Power Battery.
In brightest day, in blackest night, no evil shall escape my sight! Let those who worship evil's might, beware my power--Green Lantern's light!

That's strange. I thought I heard someone saying my poem. Itty???
THE END

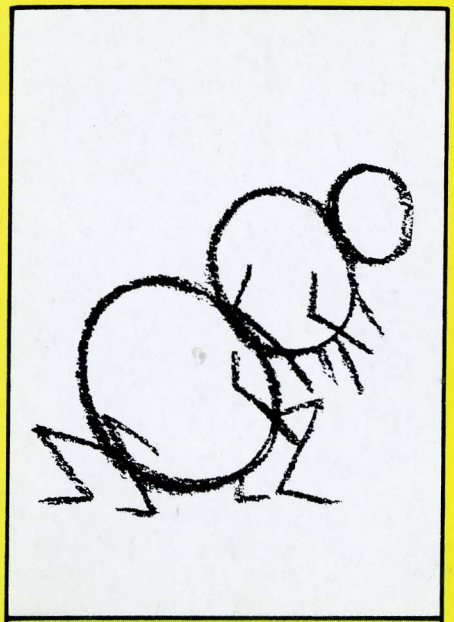
THE GNARTH RETURNS



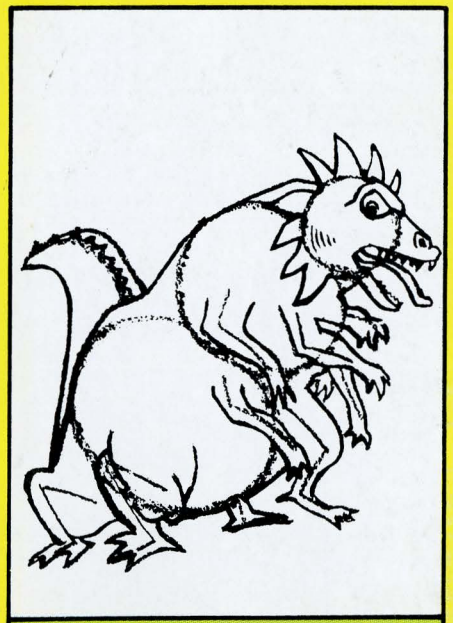
Gnarth!



Draw three different circles.



Add legs and arms.



Finish head, body, and tail.

SRA

SCIENCE RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, INC.
Chicago, Palo Alto, Toronto, Henley-on-Thames, Sydney, Paris, Stuttgart
A Subsidiary of IBM

Reorder No. 3-3819
ISBN: 0-574-33319-5